

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04264 250338 Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 031624

R 241157 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9371

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4264

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: DOMESTIC POLITICS: LULL AT AN END AS ASSEMBLIES  
RECONVENE

SUMMARY: RECONVENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR BUDGET  
SESSION MAY 24 AND OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES IN FOLLOWING  
WEEKS SHOULD MARK END OF COMPARATIVE LULL IN DOMESTIC  
POLITICS. POLITICALLY ACTIVE SUMMER EXPECTED AS GOVERN-  
MENT PREPARES FOR LATE SUMMER PROMULGATION OF NEW CON-  
STITUTION. BHUTTO ADMINISTRATION REMAINS IN CONTROL OF  
SITUATION, WITH OPPOSITION STILL IN SOME DISARRAY. END  
SUMMARY

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE EVENING MAY  
24 FOR SIX- WEEK BUDGET SESSION. FIRST TWO WEEKS TO BE  
DEVOTED TO NORMAL LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS, INCLUDING CON-  
SIDERATION NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT ORDINANCES REQUIRING  
ASSEMBLY ASSENT. FEDERAL BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED JUNE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04264 250338 Z

9. WITH RAMAINDER OF SESSION UP TO END OF JUNE SET ASIDE FOR BUDGET DEBATE.

2. PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES WILL ALSO CONVENE FOR BUDGET SESSIONS DURING FIRST HALF OF JUNE. MAIN FOCUS OF INTEREST WILL BE IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, WHERE CHIEF MINISTER GANDAPUR'S NEW TOP- HEAVY COALITION CABINET ( 14 MINISTERS) WILL BE FACING LEGISLATURE FOR FIRST TIME, AND IN BALUCHISTAN, WHERE INFORMED SPECULATION IS THAT NEW GOVERNMENT PUT TOGETHER BY GOVERNOR BUGTI STILL LACKS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY.

3. CONVENING OF ASSEMBLIES SHOULD MARK END OF COMPARATIVE LULL THAT HAS DESCENDED ON DOMESTIC POLITICS IN RECENT WEEKS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT SITUATION HAS BEEN EXACTLY TRANQUIL -- SHARP POLITICAL INFIGHTING HAS CONTINUED BETWEEN RULING PPP AND PIR PAGARO / UDF OPPOSITION IN SIND; THERE HAS BEEN SCRAMBLE FOR LUCRATIVE PORTFOLIOS IN NEW NWFP COALITION GOVERNMENT; AND DEVELOPMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN HAVE BEEN COLORED BY VIOLENCE AS WELL AS POLITICAL MANEUVERING. YET FRENETIC ACTIVITY THAT ACCOMPANIED PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTION BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND FORMATION OF NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN PESHAWAR AND QUETTA IN APRIL HAS VISIBLY SUBSIDED. ( IN PART, CYNICS ASSERT, BECAUSE OF WHOLESAL GOP RESORT TO SECTION 144 BAN ON PUBLIC MEETINGS).

4. ONE SIGN THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS AGAIN ON INCREASE HAS BEEN APPARENT IN INFO MEDIA. STRIDENT GOVERNMENT PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPPOSITION PARTIES LARGELY CEASED WHEN OPPOSITION REVERSED SELF ON APRIL 10 AND ENDORSED CONSTITUTION. IN PAST WEEK OR SO, HOWEVER, CAMPAIGN HAS AGAIN BEEN ON UPSWING, WITH FRONT PAGES OF GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED PAPERS ONCE MORE GIVEN OVER TO LONG DENUNCIATIONS OF OPPOSITION FIGURES BY REGIME SPOKESMEN, EDITORIALS AND FEATURE ARTICLES ATTACKING OPPOSITION, AND RELEGATION OF OPPOSITION REBUTTALS TO ABBREVIATED ARTICLES ON SPORTS PAGE. OPPOSITION FOR ITS PART IS ALSO RESORTING TO INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC, WITH NAP LEADER WALI KHAN QUOTED AS THREATENING THAT BANGLADESH SECESSION WILL BE REPEATED IN QUETTA IF GOVERNMENT PERSISTS IKPIST POLICIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 04264 250338 Z

5. FURTHER INTO FUTURE, AFTER JUNE BUDGET SESSIONS OF LEGISLATURES, ATTENTION WILL FOCUS INCREASINGLY ON MEASURES TO PREPARE FOR PROMULGATION OF NEW CONSTITUTION ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 14, INCLUDING ELECTION OF SENATE ( WHICH LAW MINISTER PIRZADA HAS ANNOUNCED WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE END OF JULY), CHOICE OF PRESIDENT, AND NUMEROUS OTHER POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TASKS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH

SWITCH FROM PRESIDENTIAL TO PARLIAMENTARY SISTEM.

6. COMMENT: WITH POLITICALLY ACTIVE SUMMER COMING UP,  
BHUTTO GOVERNMENT STILL SEEMS TO HAVE MOST OF THE  
TRUMPS. PREPARATIONS FOR PROMULGATING CONSTITUTION,  
WHICH SHOULD TAKE UP MUCH OF SUMMER, WILL GIVE GOVERN-  
MENT FURTHER OPPORTUNITY PUBLICIZE AND CAPITALIZE ON  
ITS ROLE IN BRINGING PAKISTA  
E E E E E E

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ISLAMA04264  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730554/aaaajtxu.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 07 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980305  
**Subject:** DOMESTIC POLITICS: LULL AT AN END AS ASSEMBLIES RECONVENE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PK, PINT  
**To:** KABUL  
KARACHI  
LAHORE  
LONDON  
NEA  
NEW DELHI  
SECSTATE WASHDC

TEHRAN

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005